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Between August 5, 1964 and July 27, 1969:

3,312

US PLANES SHOT DOWN
IN NORTH VIET NAM

South Viet Nam

REGIONAL TROOPS AND GUERILLAS DESTROY ENEMY MAN-POWER IN ALL BATTLEFIELDS

PLAF MOUNT SURPRISE ATTACKS ON MANY ADVERSE UNITS SOUTH OF
THE DMZ, SOUTHWEST OF HUE, AND NORTH AND SOUTHWEST OF SAIGON

- 1 Battalion and 6 Companies of US, Puppet and Satellite Troops Put out of Action in 4 Days.
- More Than 4,000 Enemy Troops Disabled and 147 Military Vehicles Destroyed in the First Half of July.

On Nixon's Asian Tour:

NEO-COLONIALIST AIMS BEHIND PEACE MASK

Editor's Note:

As this article was going to press, news came from Saigon that President Nixon took a last-minute decision to visit South Viet Nam, arriving there on July 30. In his arrival statement, Nixon again pledged support for the Thieu-Ky-Huong regime and misrepresented the good will attitude of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the DRVN Government as regards a negotiated settlement of the Viet Nam problem. Commenting on this move of Nixon, Western news agencies said it was intended to bolster up the morale of the Saigon regime threatened with a complete collapse by an eventual American withdrawal.

ON July 20 President Nixon set out on an Asian tour with an asset in his political bag any US President would envy him—the moonlanding of the *Apollo 11* crew which still captured international headlines. In fact, Nixon decided to make the most of this rare human feat in his peace-selling trip. As could be expected, he declared that he was going to Asia 'in pursuit of peace, justice and economic welfare', that he wanted to find out what role America could play after the Viet Nam war.

However, his optimism was short lived. Manila which he chose as the first leg in his tour greeted him with open and violent hostility. Filipino students and youth held torch-bearing, protest marches in front of the US Embassy and President Marcos's Palace. They pulled down American flags and trampled on them, and shouted in the US chief executive's face: "Americans get out." "Uncle Dick, go away back." "Tricky Dick, yeah, yeah, yeah." "Give Asia back to Asians." "In memoriam Vietn mese NPL...."

Nixon discovered to his great disappointment that Asia still was, as it had been, a focal point of revolutionary storms. The well deserved "welcome" Filipinos extended him was an unmistakable proof that the Asians had seen through the real intention of the US President and the die-hard nature of US imperialism.

In his July 25 news conference in Guam as well as his statements in Manila, Nixon tried to convey the impression that the new US administration was going to apply a new, more radical policy concerning Asian problems. "Asian problems must be solved by Asians," "peace and progress in Asia must be shaped and protected primarily by Asian hands" he clamoured. He also spoke of the new role of the US after the Viet Nam war, promising that it would be based on a "relation of mutual trust, mutual respect, mutual confidence, and mutual co-operation."

But the deeds of US imperialism haven't matched Nixon's words. In Asia

(Continued page 2)



Guerillas of Quang Da province (South Viet Nam) unprisoning an American shell. The materials derived from it will serve to manufacture weapons.

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Successful Fulfilment of
the First Half-Year State
Plan

Page 5

US Aggression in Viet Nam
One of the Biggest Wars Ever
Fought by the United States

At the 28th session of the Paris Conference, Minister Xuan Thuy, head of the DRVN Government delegation, pointed out that to settle the Viet Nam question, first of all, the knot of the problem — US aggression — must be untied.

The US and satellite troops are the sole foreign troops invading Viet Nam, he said. Therefore, to put an end to the war and settle peacefully the Viet Nam question, the US must naturally withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam without imposing any condition whatsoever.

The DRVN chief delegate dissected Nixon's latest pretensions of peace, which by dealing with question "after the Viet Nam war," were designed to make believe that peace would soon come. He pointed out that it was only a crafty move to appease American and world public

to oppose the US aggression and the henchmen of the US.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RVSN Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation, made it clear that the US and Saigon puppet administration were raising a "ballyhoo about the so-called 'good will for peace' and 'important initiative' of the US and puppets to settle the South Viet Nam problem."

In reality, she said, the US has been unceasingly pushing up its war of aggression, conducting savage raids and sweeps, intensifying the use of napalm bombs, toxic chemicals and gas against the South Vietnamese people and carrying out the US policy of "maximum military pressure."

She castigated the obdurate attitude of the US and Saigon puppet administration.

28th Plenary Session of Paris Conference
on Viet Nam (July 31, 1969)

Mr. XUAN THUY: "To Settle the Viet Nam Question, First of All, the Knot of the Problem—US Aggression—Must Be Untied"

opinion which was urging that Nixon stop immediately the war of aggression in Viet Nam and bring all American troops home.

Concerning the South Vietnamese people's exercise of their right of self-determination by holding really free and democratic general election, Mr. Xuan Thuy fully concurred with Minister Nguyen Thi Binh's viewpoint.

He refuted the tricky proposal on "general election" put forth by the Saigon administration on July 17, which in fact he said, is a vicious scheme of the US to preserve and consolidate the lucky regime in South Viet Nam and turn it into a tool to carry out US neo-colonialism.

Recalling Nixon's trip to Saigon on July 30, Xuan Thuy said that at a time when the whole world was pressing the US to stop its aggressive war in Viet Nam, when the US expeditionary army and US satellite troops were sick of having to carry on the war, when the puppet troops were bewildered and the puppet administration was scrambling for power and prebends, Mr. Nixon arrived in Saigon on July 30 to placate his henchmen, and in fact to show that the US intended not to withdraw from South Viet Nam, and to deliberately maintain the dictatorial, warring and rotten Thieu-Ky-Huong administration.

Clearly Nixon's visit was of no use for the settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. On the contrary, it stirred up indignation among the Vietnamese people and the world's peoples and stiffened their determination

to oppose the US aggression and the henchmen of the US. Minister Nguyen Thi Binh, head of the RVSN Provisional Revolutionary Government delegation, made it clear that the US and Saigon puppet administration were raising a "ballyhoo about the so-called 'good will for peace' and 'important initiative' of the US and puppets to settle the South Viet Nam problem."

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Neo-Colonialist Aims Behind Peace Mask

(Continued from page 1)

the US has applied all the techniques and methods of neo-colonialism and has fastened invariably. It has resorted to the most brutal means, including "special wars" and "local wars" but met with violent riposte from the Asian people. It has evidently come to a flop and got bogged down neck deep in the quagmire of its aggressive war in Viet Nam. It has experienced bitter setbacks in its special war in Laos, and in its scheme to overthrow Cambodia's policy of independence and neutrality. The Thailand people's patriotic struggle against US domination has been expanding and all over Asia, a patriotic movement against US imperialism impetuously mounting.

For all his lies, Nixon could not obscure the real intention of US imperialism to seek new methods to continue its policy of aggression and war in Asia and carry out its unchanged long-term policy of dominating Asia politically, economically and militarily.

This was let out by Nixon himself when he declared that the US would continue its role as a big power in the Pacific, that he saw no reason for an American pull-out from Asia, that the US would live up to its past commitments. He urged all non-communist countries to speed up the arms race and make "regional arrangements in their common defence."

According to Western sources, it is the aim of the Nixon administration to found an anti-communist alliance embracing all-communist Asian countries while effort would be made to woo all countries that have not been involved in US-led military blocs such as Indonesia and India into this alliance. According to the US *International Herald Tribune*, the US President favoured a regional defence system against communism in which Japan would play a major role. *AFP* on June 19 pointed out that Nixon wanted to fill the vacuum created by the eventual US withdrawal from Viet Nam by stretching a new security line from Java to Indonesia and the Philippines and Thailand as supporting points and by prolonging the left and right of this system through the co-operation of India and Pakistan.

Thus, the essence of the US policy on Asia is to play off Asians against Asians and to exploit the spirit of great national union and broad national concord among the Asian people.

Nixon claimed that he came to Viet Nam "in pursuit of peace." He also spoke of the US policy towards Asia after the Viet Nam war, asserting that the US was willing to promptly end the war of

aggression in Viet Nam. But people wonder what he has done to bring about a solution to the South Viet Nam problem. In fact, the US still continues to step up its aggression against South Viet Nam, make all-out efforts to carry out the "Vietnamization" of the war, use the puppet army and administration against the South Vietnamese people and commit many more atrocious crimes.

It still refuses to give a serious response to the ten-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NLF. It still cludes the two key problems, namely the US must stop its war of aggression and withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without laying down any condition, and give up its support for the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration and leave the South Vietnamese people to choose themselves their own political regime through democratic and free elections without foreign interference.

At his news conference in Guam, Nixon said he had no plan for further withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam. Nurturing an illusion of fresh and bigger blunders. The so-called "new Asia policy" of the Nixon administration is only an outgrowth of US setbacks, weakening and stalemate in Viet Nam, Asia and the rest of the world. In obdurate opposition to the Vietnamese and Asian peoples, the US President cannot stave off humiliating failure. Isn't the strong anti-US movement which has been surging in Asia, Europe and Latin America over the recent past a clear writing on the wall to him?

Meanwhile, in Saigon puppet President Nguyen Van Thieu made it clear that he would never recognize a coalition government and threatened to punish whoever was for a coalition government. He also announced he would prosecute the war for three or five years. *AFP* noted

that Nixon and Thieu's utterances suggested both were laying the ground work for a long-range war effort.

It is obvious that for all its unsuccesses, the US is still reluctant to give up South Viet Nam. The desperate efforts will be futile. They want to prolong the war but they only court heavier defeats. The Vietnamese armed forces and people throughout the country are determined to translate into deeds President Ho Chi Minh's appeal, push up their resistance, until US troops withdraw and the puppet army and administration topple in order to liberate South Viet Nam, defend the North and ultimately reunify the country. If Nixon really wants "peace in honour," he has no other way than to pull out unconditionally all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The boss of the White House is following in Johnson's footsteps as far as Viet Nam and Asia are concerned: he is carrying on the policy of aggression and war, and to committing fresh and bigger blunders. The so-called "new Asia policy" of the Nixon administration is only an outgrowth of US setbacks, weakening and stalemate in Viet Nam, Asia and the rest of the world. In obdurate opposition to the Vietnamese and Asian peoples, the US President cannot stave off humiliating failure. Isn't the strong anti-US movement which has been surging in Asia, Europe and Latin America over the recent past a clear writing on the wall to him?

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THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH



All agricultural co-operatives in Hai Ha district (Nam Ha province) have their own blacksmith's and carpenter's shops, over half of which serve to make and repair small machines and farm implements.

In the photo: An engine-driven pump at Quynh Phuong agricultural co-operative.

Adult Complementary Education Expands

AS in other fields of activity, complementary education for adults in North Viet Nam continues to develop and improve despite the war.

Statistics collected at the end of the school year 1967-1968 show that over 1,200,000 grown-ups attended complementary classes opened under different forms of the 10-year general education system.

In the southern provinces, the hardest hit by American raids, workers, co-op farmers and civil servants regularly attend spare-time complementary classes: their member is 90,000 in Nghe An

province and over 70,000 in Ha Tinh province. General education classes (second degree, from the fifth form to the seventh form) are more and more numerous in the countryside while those of the third degree (eighth form to tenth form) are opened in increasing numbers in public services, workshops, enterprises and shock youth brigades.

Apart from these spare-time classes, North Viet Nam has now 21 full-time complementary education schools attended by 3,500 workers and farmers and 29 schools for public servants. In addition, schools are functioning for

8,000 minority youth in almost all districts in the highland, for district and village cadres in mountain regions and for women in almost all villages in the delta to raise their cultural and technical standards.

Complementary education is carefully seen to by the Viet Nam Workers' Party and DRVN Government because the improving of the cultural, scientific and technical knowledge of the toiling people and the swelling of the ranks of the intellectuals of labourer stock give a push to the drive for technical improvement, higher production and combat efficiency.

Scientific Research in DRVN Higher Education Establishments

OVER these last few years, the higher education establishments in the DRVN have recorded notable success in scientific researches.

Over 1,000 investigations have been conducted on subjects embracing a vast field: agriculture and silviculture, industry and capital construction, medicine and pharmacy, literature and linguistics, history, fundamental science, economics, pedagogy, etc. About one hundred of these aim at resolving some relatively important scientific and technical problem. Most of them deal with burning topics in our country, in production and the fighting, and in the improvement of the living conditions in the present situation.

Many of these have found practical application and yielded interesting results. Some examples:

"Projects for river crossing," a research made by the Building College which has successfully served in the elaboration and execution of various projects, of simple construction, making it possible to cross waterways in perfect safety even for big lorries (It is known that DRVN's bridges in the DRVN were destroyed by US air raids).

The utilization of bacteria for the preparation of some foods and pharmaceutical products is a subject treated by the researchers of the College of Pharmacy, of some sections of the Hanoi University of Medicine.

It has been applied in the large-scale production of vegetable foods and in the experimental preparation of Vitamin B₁₂.

"On rice millers," a work of the Agricultural College No 1, helps find efficacious measures to combat that rice-disease in large areas. Other researches of the same school on rice cultivation led to the determination of several species of summer, autumn and spring rice of good quality and of high yield.

Other investigations conducted in Thai Binh province by the Rural Economy Section of the Economic and Planning College resulted in efficacious measures to increase the tractive force, improve livestock, rationally utilize the acreage reserved for the individual exploitation of co-op farmers, develop by-roads etc, which enable to rise out the income of the peasants and agricultural co-operatives.

"The application of operational research in production" is a most interesting theme, chosen by many schools including the Hanoi University (Mathematics Department), the College of Pedagogy (Sciences Department). The results of their works have enabled to link up to shape the big transport

plans, the execution of many projects, etc., with notable saving of time, manpower and transport means compared with former plans and projects.

"On the treatment of traumatism," a study conducted by the College of Medicine, has found a wide-spread application in modernly equipped hospitals as well as in ordinary medical stations. Relying mainly on one's own power is a principle applied by all schools to build laboratories, experimental stations, observation posts indispensable to their research work. One can appreciate the efforts made to this end when these schools had to evacuate the cities to settle scattering in the countryside. The exchange of experiences was given keen attention by the researchers and their success can be ascribed to their collective labour. Many schools regularly publish scientific information bulletins and in these last two years, hundreds of meetings have been held to discuss various studies. Many cadres have also contributed to foreign scientific magazines.

Others have taken part in the elaboration of program of technical revolution in Viet Nam, sponsored by departments of the Scientific and Technical Staff Committee. Scientific researches in higher education schools in the DRVN are but at their initial stage. But they are on the right track and are now full of promise.

News in Brief

DURING the first half of 1969, according to statistics gathered in 12 provinces and cities, the communications and transport service mended or built 7,000 kilometres of roads and 3,429 bridges, embankments and viaducts, and put into commission 20,600 new means of transport. The length of roads repaired or newly built has increased by 43 per cent for Nam Ha province in the delta and 25 per cent for Ha Giang province in the mountains.

IN capital construction, the erection of 135 undertakings has been launched during the past six months, 50 of which were already put into commission. Labour productivity has gone up from 5 to 10 per cent while the aggregate value of building materials produced has risen by 31 per cent as compared with the corresponding period last years.

IN the course of the resistance to the US war of destruction the number of establishments of higher education grew from 20 to 35, that of secondary vocational schools from 65 to 190. Student enrolment respectively jumped from 20,000 to 75,000 and from 45,000 to 150,000.

DURING the past six months, 30 maternity homes have been opened. At present, in Quang Binh province and Hai Phong area, respectively 85 per cent and 94 per cent of villages have got their own installations.

SUCCESSFUL FULFILMENT OF THE FIRST HALF-YEAR STATE PLAN

CHE VIET TAN

Member of the State Planning Board

IN the past six months, keeping pace with continuous, powerful, generalized and efficient waves of offensives and uprisings at the great front, the patriotic emulation movement and the resolve to fulfil the task of building the rear, strengthened by respective emulation drives in different branches of activity of the nation have fired various social segments of North Viet Nam to march ahead, turn to account their favourable conditions, overcome their difficulties, intensify production, adequately supply the front, rapidly increase the economic and national defence potential, and contribute a worthy share to the effort to win total victory over the American aggressors.

In agriculture, the acreage under winter-spring crop has risen by 10,000 hectares as compared with last year, 5.5 per cent in the midlands and 0.7 per cent in the delta. In 13 out of 26 provinces and cities, this cultivated area has expanded. Though suffering for four years of a vicious war of destruction, the southern provinces brought in a good summer crop. Acreage under summer rice has greatly widened in Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Quang Binh; in Vinh Linh where one fourth of the area is pockmarked with bomb craters, the irrigation system shattered and the cattle destroyed, the collective farmers have extended cultivated area by 21 per cent. Remarkably enough, the spring rice was planted over 10,000 hectares, twice last year's figure. Leadership in agricultural production has also made progress: nearly all the summer rice crop has been grown ahead of schedule; in many places spring rice has been sown direct without transplantation; selection of seeds, tilling, sowing, transplanting in straight rows, have been carried out satisfactorily. Therefore, despite scanty sunshine at the beginning, rain and west wind at the end, high yields have been secured in many regions: 3.7 per cent over last year in the southern provinces, 2 per cent in the mountain areas. In Vinh Linh, some production brigades topped 3 tons per hectare. This year, the summer crop was rapidly, neatly and satisfactorily brought in, thus saving time for the farmers to tackle the autumn crop.

After the harvest, the peasants have also promptly paid their taxes to the State, thus making a direct contribution to supplying foodstuffs to the front and celebrating in a realistic way the great and all-round successes of their heroic Southern fellow-countrymen.

In animal husbandry, the number of pigs has grown by 3 per cent by April 1, 1969 compared with last year. In the southern provinces, the rise has been 8.6 per cent (or 1.5 per cent in comparison with last October). Despite storms and floods and occasional shortage of food coupled with a mass consumption of meat on the Lunar New Year's Day, the increase has been steady. This is an encouraging achievement, which testifies to the development of animal husbandry and cultivation, the two main branches of socialist agriculture in North Viet Nam.

In industry, the value of industrial products has gone up by 7 per cent, the centrally-run industry gaining 9 per cent as compared with last year. Many staple products have been on the upgrade: electricity 38 per cent, earth treatment 20 per cent and coal extraction 8.5 per cent at the Quang Ninh colliery; timber 13 per cent, fertilizers 11 per cent. A sweeping emulation movement has unfolded: spring of victory over the American aggressors, welcome to the South Viet Nam NLF's delegation on a visit to the North, greeting to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, in particular the movement of two spearheads against the Yankees (record number of workhours and workdays, best time and labour-saving handling of machines) has become an orientation of deep significance in the economic, political, ideological and organizational aspects of the patriotic emulation among workers in many localities, industrial branches and enterprises. In many undertakings, individual monthly workday average has gained 3 or 4 days of work each month while one 100% efficient working hours have shot up 20 per cent. In the engineering section of the Mai Dong plant, labour pro-

ductivity has upped from 9 to 48 per cent as compared with the second half of 1968; 35 valuable initiatives have been suggested for saving materials, labour and thousands of dong; in a short time the cast-iron foundry workshop of the Thai Nguyen complex developed and turned out a number of products capable of replacing steel.

The emulation movement to fulfil the first half-year's plan has been also something in light industry as well as on the food-processing industry. The Hong Mai food-testing laboratory has fulfilled its plan in five months, like the Van Dien sugar-refinery mill, and many others.

Local industry has kept on developing: engineering, chemicals, glassware, weaving, leather-making, tailoring, dyeing, food-processing, stationery from 2.5 to 12 per cent; building materials 21 per cent; consumer goods 10.3 per cent, capital construction 5 per cent. Engineering network, production bases for consumer goods, handicraft and small industry co-operatives have been consolidated and strengthened: up to now, nearly 8,000 blacksmithy and carpentry groups have been set up in various agricultural co-operatives to repair and supply farming implements to the peasants, thus giving vigorous boost to labour productivity in agriculture.

Communications and transport have continued achieving substantial successes. In the present new stage, they have to continue to supply the front and act as "logistical" means for the production and building of various industrial branches and local industry. In the past six months, the volume of freight has gone up 8.3 per cent in tons/goods and 28 per cent in tons/kilometres as compared with last year, with coal-transport recording a plus of 23 per cent. Thus, the southern provinces have rapidly restored and developed production and stabilized people's living; goods have been carried to the highlanders before the flood season; coal has been brought down to the bases to produce building materials like bricks and tiles to meet both State and people's needs in construction.

The catering service has also made headway. The trading branch adequately provided for the people for the Lunar New Year's festivities. To the flood-stricken areas, the State has timely delivered foodstuffs and staple commodities, thereby encouraging the peasants to develop production.

To the cadres and workers, the State has sold more foodstuffs, seen to the satisfactory catering for community dining room, adequate supply of tools for broodfests, repaired war-damaged houses... The trading network has been expanded. Some commodities have been detoured.

Cultural, educational and medical work has kept on developing vigorously.

Management of labour, materials and public funds has been bettered, bringing practical results to economy and opening many prospects in the way of boosting labour efficiency, saving materials and reducing price costs.

However, some branches of the economy have made slow progress with regard to the growing needs of socialist building. In agriculture, the increment of acreage under subsidiary and industrial crops has been insufficient; in industry such major products as electricity, coal, timber, fabrics, need a more vigorous spur; at times transport and supply of materials have not been efficient; the organization of the people's life could have been much better.

Our people's resistance to US aggression for national salvation has switched over to a new stage, most arduous and gruelling in every aspect. The entire nation is steadily pushing up its fight toward final victory. In these conditions, North Viet Nam has to meet the immediate requirements of the fighting and at the same time step up its tempo of socialist building.

In the immediate future the North Vietnamese will have to get a bumper autumn crop and prepare for the winter 1969-spring 1970 crop; intensify the production of major producer and consumer goods; fully satisfy the requirements of the front, better organize the people's life, develop education and culture to fulfil the second half of the 1969 State plan.

WHEN the Apollo 11 crewmen splashed down safe and sound after their journey on our natural satellite, a Western journalist wryly remarked that the US was trying to make up on the moon for the setbacks they had sustained on the earth in Viet Nam!

In fact, US failure in our country has now become a reality so evident that even the top men in Washington like Nixon, Melvin Laird, Clark Clifford, Rogers and others have openly (if not explicitly) acknowledged it. However, nobody can "blame" the successive bosses of the White House for having, over the last 15 years, scribbled over neither the budget nor the means and troops strength to secure a military victory over a small country ravaged by war since 1941-1942 and a people of some 30 million souls just freed from the colonial yoke. US armed aggression against Viet Nam, in our opinion, is one of the biggest wars this biggest imperialist power has ever waged since its birth two centuries ago.

research (lethal gadgets developed with a diabolical intent and experienced on the Viet Nam testing-ground), US forces in Thailand, Okinawa, Guam... foreign economic aid, etc... So much so that according to Senator Fulbright (June 14, 1968) the US has in fact spent a handsome sum of 382 billion dollars on the Viet Nam war. It even reaches 400 billion by the estimates of an expert in this matter, Prof. Schuyten. As a comparison, let us cite for instance US expenditures in other

US Aggression in Viet Nam

One of the Biggest Wars Ever Fought by the United States

IN SOUTH VIET NAM, THE HIGHEST DENSITY OF TROOPS EVER REACHED

To make war on the 14 million South Vietnamese, the US has committed to a theatre of operation of 171,000 square kilometres 1.2 million GIs, mercenaries of its satellite countries and soldiers of the puppet army. In June 1969, the US expeditionary corps reached its 550,000-man ceiling.

To these figures, it should be added the 35,000 GIs directly involved in the war from the 7th Fleet, 45,000 others based in Thailand and still tens of thousands in Okinawa, Guam and the Philippines. To South Viet Nam, the US has committed, according to Washington's official figures, 68 per cent of its infantry and airborne troops, over 32 per cent of its tactical air force, 19.5 per cent of its aircraft carriers, etc.

Thus, of all the wars the US has fought since its independence, the Viet Nam war ranks next only to the 2nd World War in terms of the build-up involved. Yet, considering the enormous disproportion between the extent of the theatres of operations in these two wars, the Viet Nam war is much bigger in terms of the "density" of the troops and the means put into action by the most populous and most industrialized country of the imperialist camp.

THE MOST ELABORATE TECHNIQUES AND THE MOST MODERN WEAPONS GALORE

SURELY enough, only nuclear weapons have not been used although some US generals and political figures have contemplated it. It is because the political-military conditions in the world and in the Viet Nam and the aspect of the war in South Viet Nam do not permit this act of madness

which, like a boomerang, will entail incalculable disastrous consequences for the war dealers in Washington. However, to kill our compatriots, the Pentagon has resorted to an extremely varied panoply of minutely worked out tactics, and technical means and weapons based on the latest achievements of science and technology: helicopters by the thousands, super-sonic fighter-bombers, B-52 super-bombers, ultra-rapid cannon and carbines, rockets of all types, 7-ton bombs, steel-pellet bombs, toxic gases, poisons, napalm and phosphorous shells, and so on...

The industrial might of the US has enabled the Pentagonian criminals to hurl against Viet Nam a huge quantity of bombs, munitions and other engines of death.

On March 24, 1969, in the US House of Representatives, one of its members revealed that every square mile of Vietnamese territory had received an average 25 tons of US explosives. The American press disclosed that since 1959, three million tons of bombs have been dropped in Viet Nam, or 150% of the bomb tonnage used by the US from 1941 to 1945 in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

The same source said that by the end of 1966, the quantity of shells fired by the Americans in Viet Nam had surpassed that they had used throughout World War II.

The wealth of the American people wasted by their governments in pursuit of the Viet Nam adventure was astronomical. The official figures tell of an annual budget of some 30 billion dollars and that means 100 billion have been spent thus far. Yet, in reality, things differ because every year, billions of dollars appropriated for the war in our country are notional. They are in other items of the huge US budget: Navy (7th Fleet) air force, scientific and technical

conflicts: World War I, 32 billion; World War II, 350 billion.

THE LONGEST WAR IN US HISTORY

THE Americans have become directly involved in Viet Nam since 1949 in sending to this country a big contingent of "advisers," in fact a contingent of cadres to conduct the war and officer the puppet troops in the "special war" (1961-1964). Apart from the 30,000 "advisers," tactical air units have also been introduced to support ground operations. With the last 4 years of the "local war" and an expeditionary corps swelling vastly, the Viet Nam war turns out to be longer than World War II (1914-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), World War I (1917-1918), the war against Spain (1893), the War of Secession (1861-1865) and the war against Mexico (1848). With Richard Nixon who continues to follow in L.B. Johnson's footsteps, there is every chance that the US aggression in Viet Nam will last longer than the Independence War (1775-1783).

The nerves of the GIs in South Viet Nam have been severely put to test not only by the record duration of the war, but also by a constant tension created by people's war they have to face. According to AP, in his recent short visit to South Viet Nam, Nixon declared on July 30 at Da Nang, near Saigon, that the Viet Nam war was the toughest ever fought by the US. "I am proud of the courage of our South Viet Nam, the aggressors can find absolutely no haven. According to the US press, if the Big Red One took part in combat actions for only 158 days in 1968, it was more than twice as long as in the Second World War, it has had to stand on the alert for more than 1,300 days since its arrival in South Viet Nam.

As a rule, South Viet Nam was one of Southeast Asia's biggest rice bowls. However, owing to the US economic strangulation and because of the ravages wrought by the US war of aggression, in recent years it has had to import annually from 700,000 to 1,000,000 tons of rice from the US and some of its satellite countries. According to the puppet officials of Saigon, the puppet army had to pay 100 million dollars on Dec. 4, 1968,

US AID GENERATES ECONOMIC SLUMP IN SOUTH VIET NAM OCCUPIED AREAS

(Excerpts from the statement of the South Viet Nam Democratic Party representative at the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives in June 1969)

US economic aid is essentially a device to find an outlet for US surplus goods. It does not help develop the new economy. On the contrary, it makes an armed intervention and brings about its stagnation and decline and growing dependence on US imperialist aid. It strangles our home production, and turns South Viet Nam into a dumping area for US unsalable commodities. As a result, under the US puppet regime, the national capitalists find themselves in a straight jacket and in the impossibility of promoting their talents. Thus, after years under the US imperialists' domination and the puppet administration, the new industry is still marked by the colonial stamps.

Engineering is virtually non-existent. Total capital investment into machine repair and maintenance is extremely scanty. The new industry depends on foreign capitalists not only for equipment and fuel but also for raw materials. It not only counts on imported metals and chemicals but also on imports unprocessed farm produce although South Viet Nam used to be a prosperous agricultural country with a great variety of products whose output can be extended and developed, which can be handled quite efficiently by the national capitalists and bourgeois intellectuals such as cotton, sugar cane and tobacco. Moreover, South Viet Nam produced more rubber, pineapples and bamboo (paper-pulp) than it knows what to do with but these are not exploited and utilized in a proper manner. Rubber industry is consuming only something around 1 per cent of South Viet Nam's rubber output while most of the paper-pulp needed is imported. The industry is struggling hard for its survival beside a continued decline of the cotton growing industry. As to sugar making, there is speculation that the volume of foreign exchange furnished for it is more than enough to purchase machines and equipment and build a biggest sugar refinery more modern than the Hiep Hoa's. Meanwhile, many localities in South Viet Nam are being urged to burn down their sugar crop.

As a rule, South Viet Nam was one of Southeast Asia's biggest rice bowls. However, owing to the US economic strangulation and because of the ravages wrought by the US war of aggression, in recent years it has had to import annually from 700,000 to 1,000,000 tons of rice from the US and some of its satellite countries. According to the puppet officials of Saigon, the puppet army had to pay 100 million dollars on Dec. 4, 1968,

rice import accounted for a 12 billion South Viet Nam piastre deficit in the Saigon budget. McDonald, Director of the US AID mission in Saigon, told AFP that there was fear of an outbreak of famine. Such a situation prompted the Saigon paper Cong Luon (Aug. 1, 1968) to exclaim sadly, "It is indeed an economic tragedy to depend on foreign countries for even a bowl of rice and soup."

With agriculture in such a sore plight, South Viet Nam's commerce is understandably utterly chaotic. The trade deficit is critical. In 1966 export made up only one-twentieth of import or a deficit of 11 billion piastres.

In the first half of 1969, export was worth only 1/10th of import or a gap of 2.2 billion piastres.

In the last 2 years, the US imperialists have built storerooms for their export factories to keep and flood the market with their goods, thereby turning South Viet Nam into a dumping area for their surplus. American goods glut shopwindows and kerb-traders' packs (Cong Luon, 1, 1968). The US imperialists publicly control South Viet Nam's trade. Inside the country, the US imperialists control the country's economic and social life. Outside the country they act as South Viet Nam's sole representative. In the midst of this economic depression, US-puppet war intensification has enlisted many technicians, experts and intellectuals, thereby depriving economy of its brains first while military draft engendering a serious man-power shortage has brought many enterprises to a slow-down or a standstill.

Clearly enough, the US imperialists' neo-colonialist aid and war intensification has plunged South Viet Nam into a vicious economic crisis and decline and made it more and more dependent on them. They can give a more meaningful assessment of the South Viet Nam economic situation than US officials' circles and Western observers.

McDonald acknowledged, AFP reported on Dec. 12, 1968, that South Viet Nam is a colonial economy, that a lot of things need to be done to modernize it, that in 1969, the US will continue to pour billions of dollars into it. But there is the danger of its being slowed down perpetually and crippled for a long time. Reuters on Sept. 28, 1968 further pointed out that the depreciation of the South Viet Nam currency was of course merely a vivid sign of the chaos that gripped the whole economy of South Viet Nam, that inflation was rampant in the cities, that a crisis of rice from the US and that industry was at a critical standstill.

(Continued page 7)

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH GREET'S WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST A AND H BOMBS

July 29, 1969

To the 15th World Conference Against
A and H Bombs in Japan

ON behalf of the Vietnamese people and in my own name, I extend warm greetings to the Conference.

The Vietnamese people fully approve and support the just struggle of the national Japanese people for the strict prohibition of nuclear weapons, abolition of the Japan-US "security treaty," immediate, unconditional and complete return of Okinawa to Japan, dismantling of all US military bases on the Japanese territory and against the restoration of Japanese militarism.

In their struggle against US aggression for national salvation, the Vietnamese people have always enjoyed strong sympathy and support from all strata of the Japanese people and our friends in all continents as well as the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs.

On this occasion, I convey our sincere thanks to the Japanese people and to the Conference delegates and wish the Conference may attain its lofty objectives in the interests of world peace.

HO CHI MINH

At a press conference held on July 25, 1969 in Paris, Prince Souvanna Phouma slandered the DRVN and lashed up US crimes of aggression in Laos.

Challenging facts, Phouma brazenly charged that North Viet Nam did not respect the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos, had introduced 60,000 troops into Laos, and was attempting to turn Laos into a colony and satellite, and so on. On the other hand, Phouma showed more zeal than ever before in pleading

the declaration of the US State Department spokesman on July 25 denying that the US was committing aggression in Laos.

The Laotian people are indignantly denouncing US policy of aggression and war against Laos as an attempt to turn it into a neo-colony and military base. American papers have once compared Laos of the Vietnamese authorities to a house on stilts that can stand only thanks to the "US aid" props. Phouma cannot cover up the crimes committed by the

the Laotian patriotic armed forces exercising their sacred right to self-defence by punishing the enemy's encroachments as "attacks by the North Viet Nam army." But the whole world has seen that in the past 15 years, the US policy of aggression and intervention has met with one failure after another in the face of the persistent and valiant struggle of the Laotian people. This was admitted by the "Simpsons" themselves, when they were forced to sign the 1962 Geneva Agreement and committed themselves

Guinea and Cape Verde. Towns and cities have closely been controlled by secret police teams. The penitentiary regime has been very hard, political prisoners being dealt with by especially trained torturers.

The people have been putting up a resolute struggle sympathized with and supported by the oppressed peoples, especially since the end of World War II with the strong growth of the national liberation movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In August 1959, the Guinean officially demanded recognition of their national independence and sovereignty. The Portuguese savagely suppressed the popular movement. In August 1959, workers on strike at Wharf Pitigniti (Bissau Port) were massacred (50 killed, over 100 wounded).

Killed on August 3, 1959, the armed struggle of the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde has been stepped up. Since 1963, guerrilla warfare has extended to the heart of Guinea. The insurgent forces have been organized by the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde) with Amil-

to respect the Laotian people's fundamental national rights.

Phouma also boasted of his effort to find a "friendly solution" with Viet Nam. But how can he camouflage the fact that he and none other has allowed the US to use Laos's airspace and territory for aggression against Viet Nam. While the world's people, including the American people, were critical of the Nixon administration's pursuance of its aggressive war and intervention in Laos and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, Phouma on July 25 slandered the DRVN and declared his support to the "US efforts at the Paris Conference." It is clear that

the Laotian patriotic armed forces exercising their sacred right to self-defence by punishing the enemy's encroachments as "attacks by the North Viet Nam army." But the whole world has seen that in the past 15 years, the US policy of aggression and intervention has met with one failure after another in the face of the persistent and valiant struggle of the Laotian people. This was admitted by the "Simpsons" themselves, when they were forced to sign the 1962 Geneva Agreement and committed themselves

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car Cabral as its Secretary General. They are controlling two-thirds of the territory.

In the liberated zone, the people's power is carrying out, abreast production and combat. According to the January 1969 report by A. Cabral, in 1968, the revolutionary forces laid 107 ambushes, mounted 500 direct attacks, burnt 200 military vehicles, sunk 63 combat boats and shot down 10 planes. In January and February 1969 (Communique of PAIGC) a large-scale offensive launched by the people resulted in many posts overrun and the border

On the Occasion of the Day of International Solidarity with
Guinea and Cape Verde People's Struggle (August 3, 1969)

Victory Belongs to Guinea and Cape Verde Peoples

area near the Republic of Guinea liberated. The enemy sustained heavy casualties. Frightened by the success of the revolutionary forces, the Portuguese colonialists have been increasing repressive measures. Backed by the NATO aggressive bloc headed by Washington, they have been multiplying "mopping-up" operations and bombing raids on the population, burning down whole villages with napalm and phosphorus.

Thanks to a fierce resistance, the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde have so far succeeded in preserving their liberated areas and consolidating their forces.

THE Vietnamese people rejoice at the growing successes achieved by the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde which they regard as their own ones. This just struggle is the pride of the oppressed peoples struggling against US-headed colonialism and imperialism.

On the occasion of August 3, the Vietnamese people wish the peoples of Guinea and Cape Verde great and glorious successes.

ment and the Vietnamese people resolutely support the legitimate demand of the Laotian Patriotic Front and Laotian peoples.

The Vietnamese people categorically reject Phouma's accusations. The July 23 statement of the DRVN Foreign Ministry made clear that no slanderous allegation of the US and its lackeys against the DRVN could obscure the truth that the US was interfering in and invading Laos. The DRVN Govern-

US BACTERIO-CHEMICAL WARFARE IN VIET NAM

ON July 28, 1969, while speaking of chemical and bacteriological weapons, US Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird said that it would not be used in our era. He also added that his country would not be the first to deploy it. Facts, however, do not support these statements. How can the US Defense Secre-

Year	People affected	Crops destroyed (hectares)
1961	182	560
1962	1,220	11,030
1963	9,000	320,000
1964	11,000	500,000
1965	146,247	700,000

Since the day American troops were massively committed to South Viet Nam, US chemical weapons have been increasingly resorted to. Every day 30 big C-124's spray toxics over provinces in South Viet Nam from the 17th parallel to Ca Mau cape. In some districts like Gio Linh and Cam Lo, up to 67 per cent of the area was affected in February 1968 alone.

In the past six months, especially since Nixon's inauguration, US chemical and bacteriological warfare has been stepped up on an unprecedented scale. Toxic chemicals have been poured over more than 20 provinces in South Viet Nam, killing hundreds of people, injuring tens of thousands of others and ruining tens of thousands of hectares under crops. Many places in Laos and Cambodia have also become targets of chemical and bacteriological warfare. As denounced by the Cambodian Government, from April 18 to May 14, 1969, 16,000 hectares of rubber trees were laid. Later, on July 23, 1969 Cambodia again lodged a strong protest

against the crimes committed by the American aggressors against the Vietnamese people and hoodwink world opinion? It is the USA which has been using for nine years now toxic chemicals, poison gas and bacteria against the Vietnamese people and their crops. Here are some figures:

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against US spraying of toxic chemicals over her territory between May 18 and June 15, 1969.

In face of irrefutable proofs of US crimes and of opposition of the people in the world and at home, the American aggressors have had to admit part of the truth. On March 4, 1969 in a report about US measures on chemical and bacteriological warfare that the USA had used CB and VX along with bacteria in its war of aggression against Viet Nam. According to him, CB and VX can kill people wearing gas-masks because they get through clothes and skin. He also added that bacteria released by US rockets or airdropped could disseminate such diseases as plague, jaundice and typhoid fever.

Long before 1969, the USA owned that it had needed toxic chemicals and poison gas in Viet Nam. On March 10, 1963, the Voice of America disclosed that the USA had sprayed many kinds of toxics over South Viet Nam. Then on March 9, 1966 the States

Department announced that 20,000 acres (8,000 hectares) of crops in South Viet Nam had been devastated.

Together with the intensification of the chemical warfare in Viet Nam, the US government is stepping up the production of new chemical weapons. According to the Pentagon, the appropriations for chemical warfare in 1969 ran to 350 million dollars. However, according to Senator McCarthy, the chemical and bacteriological works in Maryland alone needed 420 million dollars. Apart from Maryland, Indiana, other states like Alabama, Utah, Alaska, Arizona... also produce chemical weapons. Moreover, the USA is cooperating with many other countries, among which West Germany, Britain, Belgium, Ireland, Israel, in research on and manufacture of these weapons. Many countries in Asia such as the Philippines, Taiwan, have become storehouses of US toxic chemicals, poison gas and bacteria.

History has always condemned those who have recourse to chemical weapons as means of aggression.

The fascists tried to break the will to fight of the world peoples with toxic chemicals and gas but they were duly punished. Chemical weapons, poison gas and bacteria did not save the USA from its humiliating defeat in Korea. The chemical and bacteriological warfare now being waged in South Viet Nam will certainly meet with the same fate.

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(Continued from page 5)

THE WAR WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MOST BRILLIANT FIELD OF US GENERALS, AMBASSADORS AND CRACK UNITS

I n 1964, ex-bandmaster of the US cavalry to the United Nations, Cabot Lodge, manifestly failed in its role of ambassador plenipotentiary to Saigon and was replaced by the Pentagon's "greatest strategist" of the time, Maxwell Taylor. Three years later, the vicious circle closed again and Cabot Lodge was put back in his old seat. In the military field, Westmoreland was kicked upstairs to become Army Chief of Staff. All that gives the indication that the Washington has used up the reserve of its generals and politicians without being able to secure a victory in South

One of the Biggest Wars Ever Fought...

VIET NAM. The same can be said of the units dispatched to the war zone. Indeed, the US has not exhausted all its resources which remain considerable. Yet, it is common knowledge that the elite outfits have been involved: the Marines, the Big Red One, the Tropic Lightning, the First Air Cavalry, etc.

HITTING A ROCK

CONFRONTED with this gigantic effort of the US imperialists to subdue them, the Vietnamese people possess quite different trump-cards whose power

has been eloquently affirmed by reality.

We have behind us a long tradition of struggle in defence of national independence dating back to the early years of the Christian Era. In this centuries-old fight, we have to confront enemies much superior in strength, from the famous cavalymen of Gengis Khan who deployed victoriously on a major part of the Eurasian continent to the colonial infantrymen who helped the French colonialists impose their rule on one-twelfth of the inhabited land of the globe. The national sentiment strengthened

by the spirit of unshakable unity which our people have forged throughout their history has enabled our forefathers to resist the invaders successfully.

In our time, especially since the Revolution of August 1945 and the birth of the people's regime, Marxism-Leninism judiciously squared with the realities of our country has given wings to our people. It has enabled them to perfect and enrich in a creative manner the strategy and tactics, extremely varied and terribly effective, of people's war. It has made it possible for them to put

ANECDOTES ON BEN HET

"A VIET CONG TANK BLASTED TO PIECES"

ON June 20, 1969 at noon, from Binh 753 a tank role bell for leather in the direction of the "Special Forces" camp at Phu Can (Ben Het). It rumbled to a stop at some 300 metres from the camp, and then its idling engine spat out a cloud of smoke.

As the soldiers in the camp had been living for months on end in fear of PLAF rocketings, from their trenches and loopholes, they poured shells and bullets of all calibres onto the suspicious vehicle and signalled in infantry and airplanes.

Then a "splendid co-ordinated action" took place between the various arms of the enemy. Bombs exploded, bullets whizzed, smoke and fire shrouded the tank until it was reduced to a heap of burning iron.

From the camp rose many shouts. "It served that Viet Cong tank well for daring to attack us in broad daylight." At that time, over the phone an angry voice was heard: "You fools! Why did you shoot at an Allied tank?"

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In addition to the press which reports timely and regularly on the daily life in

It was in fact the only tank left from the US armoured column coming to rescue Ben Het. It had been set ablaze by the "dean," fire of the very beleaguered troops it had come to help.

IT WAS A MISTAKE!

ON the same day, the puppet soldiers of the Battalion 23 coming to ease the pressure on Ben Het sneaked away. They took the jungle path for fear of being spotted by other units or of a flank attack by the PLAF. Arriving at Road No. 15, they were full of joy, thinking that they were safe.

Suddenly, from Dak R'eng, a base located between Ben Het and Dakto, a rain of shells fell. Agast, they cried: "The Viet Congs have overrun Dak R'eng."

The armour spread to the whole unit like a wild fire, and triggered off a turmoil. They ran for dear life, ignoring the orders of their commanders for a muster. The pure coming to their rescue tried to check their stampede. A murderous clash took place. When both sides realized their mistake, already scores of puppet troops corpses had littered the ground...

In Liberated Areas

(Continued from page 8)

liberated areas, many novels, short stories, collections of poems, collections of songs have been published. In March 1969, the photographic service of Giang Phong Press in Hanoi, printed in many copies for exhibition in South Viet Nam, these pictures depict the South Viet Nam youth's gallant and successful fight.

the country on a war footing with an economy and a way of life fitting in with the circumstances, and to galvanize all the material and moral forces of the nation into a very hard and protracted but certainly victorious. It has earned them the unreserved and unanimous support from the socialist camp, the factor determining the evolution of human society and the assistance and sympathy of all peoples who cherish peace and progress. Lastly, it has enabled them to make the most of their own resources and the material and technical aid granted them by their brothers and friends around the world and thus couple their moral strength with a powerful and effective material strength. And it is against this rock that the most powerful war machine the capitalist world has ever known has crashed.



South Viet Nam young volunteers joining the army

MILITARY OPERATIONS

— 1 Battalion and 6 Companies of US, Puppet and Satellite Troops Put out of Action in 4 Days.

— More Than 4,000 Enemy Troops Disabled and 147 Military Vehicles Destroyed in the First Half of July.

COMBAT activities in the whole war zone in recent days were marked by major battles fought by the PLAF south of the DMZ, in the A Bia mountain area and north and southwest of Saigon and, mostly, by attacks made by guerrillas and regional troops to contain the adversary and destroy his man-power.

On July 24, in a lightning surprise attack in the Coc Tu Sai hillary area (25km southwest of Quang Tri city, close to the DMZ), the PLAF wiped out Battalion 344 Reg. ment, 1 puppet First Division, 150 enemy casualties were reported, 150 tent barracks burnt and 9 105-mm howitzers and 81-mm mortars destroyed. Helicopters flew in many reinforcements, 4 of them were grounded by the PLAF and many troops onboard killed.

On July 26, in the A Bia mountain area (35km southwest of Hue), the PLAF engaged and knocked out one company of Battalion 1, Brigade 3, US 101st Airborne. Later, another US paratrooper company belittled into the area as reinforcements was routed by the Liberation fighters who took a toll of many troops and brought down one jet.

45 kilometres from Saigon to the north, in a surprise attack on a column of the Australian Royal task force on July 19, the PLAF put the company out of action.

On July 22, in Cai He (58km southwest of Saigon) the PLAF attacked a puppet security forces company and wrote it off the musterroll within minutes. Earlier, on

July 13, in an engagement with a puppet security forces company in Tan Chau district town (70km southwest of Saigon) the local armed forces struck it off the change.

In the first half of July, guerrillas and regional troops kept up their siege and assaults on the enemy in all battlefields, killing or wounding 1,050 US puppet and satellite troops, bringing down 19 aircraft of different types and blasting to pieces 147 military vehicles.

In the 1 Mekong Delta provinces of Tan An, My Tho, Tra Vinh and Ca Mau, regional troops put 770 adverse soldiers out of action.

In the provinces of Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan, Khanh Hoa and Tuyen Due to the northeast of Saigon, guerrillas and regional troops inflicted 1,050 enemy casualties, destroyed 47 military vehicles and shot down 3 aircraft.

In the jungled mountains of the Western High Plateaux (Kon Tum, Pleiku, Darlac) the regional armed forces put 1,191 adverse troops out of action, wrecked 105 military vehicles and knocked out it aircraft.

In Binh Dinh (270km south of Da Nang) guerrillas and regional troops wiped out 420 adverse troops and 7 vehicles.

In the 2 northernmost provinces of Quang Tri and Thua Thien regional armed forces knocked out or decimated 1,000 enemy troops (350 GI's) and shot down 3 choppers.

SINCE Tet 1968 which marked a decisive turning point in the patriotic war, the liberated areas in South Viet Nam have been constantly consolidated and expanded.

Up to now, 35 revolutionary people's committees (RPC) at provincial and regional level and 5 at municipal level have been set up. At the South Viet Nam People's Congress held from June 6 to 8, 1969, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was formed, in compliance with an imperative need of the revolution and the cherished aspiration of the people.

Everywhere they were set up, the RPCs announced the abolition of the local puppet administration and mapped out a programme of action aimed at building a new life and step by step, on the people's war. Under their direction, such work as production, education, health service, cultural activities have been given a new impetus.

FOUR thousands of hectares of land have been newly allotted to the peasants. Production has been maintained in the main. The acreage of many-crop ricefields has been raised in the provinces of Ben Tre and Tra Vinh (Mekong Delta) and the yield increased in some localities. In the liberated areas of My Tho Province, paddy yield averaged from 6 to 8 tons per hectare.

Hoi Village, in the same province, harvested 5 tons of rice per hectare despite repeated air raids. The husbandry also has made progress: in some regions in Western Nam Bo for instance (southernmost part of the country) each household fulfilled the target in breeding: 25kg of pork and 70 chickens or ducks.

The revolutionary power and the Peasants' Union give the peasants a substantial and efficacious assistance in hydraulic work. Many ditches have been dug or repaired. The modern collective work have been established as well as mutual aid-teams, which help boost agricultural production.

In the places hard hit by enemy raids, the revolutionary power organizes mutual aid among the population to make good material damage caused by the enemy and solve daily life problems. In the U Minh region, one of the important revolutionary bases in Ca Mau, the southernmost tip of the country, after recent enemy "sweeps" of utmost savagery the local people were encouraged as well as the inhabitants and medical teams to tend the sick and the wounded.

FREQUENT attacks, made by the enemy have prevented many localities from running schools and even opening new ones. At the

end of March 1969, there were in the liberated areas of Western Nam Bo 1,345 general education schools of first degree (primary) and 12 of second degree (elementary) with a total enrolment of 67,064 pupils and 2,023 teachers, 40 per cent of whom were women.

In the areas watered by the Mekong river's branches in Central Nam Bo, Ben Tre province which is the chief town and dozen other urban centres excluded, nearly completely under PRG control, about 83 schools attended by over 16,700 pupils. Third-degree schools are also opened.

Almost all the provinces in Central Trung Bo between Da Nang and Nha Trang have seen an explosion of the school population in their liberated areas: Thang Binh district (Quang Nam province) has 300 schoolchildren; Hoi Shon district (Binh Dinh province) 8,400, and Binh Son district (Quang Nam province) 6,000. In many liberated villages in the three above mentioned provinces, nearly all school age children go to school.

Refresher courses for doctors and pharmacists and their assistants which are the initial formation of higher education, run smoothly. The commencement for the second batch of doctors-in-medicine was held on December 29, 1968.

The medical network now covers large areas in the liberated zone. Each region sets a hospital and each

province, each district, its medical service headed by doctors or assistant-doctors. Many districts in the mountains inhabited by ethnic minorities have their own infirmaries or medical stations run by local medical workers. Almost all free villages have dispensaries and maternity homes.

Medicines continue to be procured despite very hard conditions. All chemistry laboratories in the provinces of the liberated areas are now capable of turning out regularly ordinary drugs such as tonic, Vitamins B and C, camphorated alcohol, ointments, anti-choleric pills, novocaine.

CULTURE and arts too flourish. On October 20, 1968, for the first time, the South Viet Nam Liberation Artists' Association put up an exhibition of over 1,000 paintings by 50 artists including oil paintings, charcoal drawings, water colours, wood-cuts, silk paintings, posters, cartoons as well as alto-relievo.

Since last year's general offensives and uprisings came from various studios in the liberated areas have been operating on vapors battle which ran through No 9 south of the 17th parallel to the Mekong Delta. They have shot many valuable American documentary films such as *Fighting in Saigon Street*, *Tempest over the Towers*, *Some Glimpses* and *General Offensives* and

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A Saigon Officer Rescues His Wife from US "Allies"

AS Ha was crossing the threshold of his house, his batman ran up to him, saying in great excitement: "Sir, on her way to the Rach Gia market your wife has just been kidnapped by Yanks!"

"What?" the officer shouted. He could not believe his ears.

The whole barracks of the company of puppet militia (Quang An) was soon all in a flurry. Ha was surrounded by soldiers and members of their families. A woman complained:

"For two months, a score of our sisters raped to death have been thrown in the Cao Qua river. The Yanks don't now get at the wife of our lieutenant!"

Ha stood transfixed with sorrow. Pulling himself together, he quickly gathered a few reliable men. The group got into a motor car which soon rumbled at full speed for the provincial capital, leaving behind it a foamy wake.

The officer was seething with impatience.

Ten minutes later, this batman spotted the kidnappers' vehicle which was in the port. The voice of a woman in distress was soon heard by the men from the motor launch which caught up with the US craft and slowed down alongside of it. Snatching the woman straight from the hands of his orderly, Ha jumped onboard the other boat, followed by his men.

On the deck, four American soldiers wearing only shorts were dragging Mrs. Ha in torn clothes towards an iron bed. The poor woman was struggling desperately.

The GI's were stunned by the sudden appearance of the Saigon soldiers led by an officer with blood shot eyes. In no time, Ha moved down the stairs and took her to the great joy of his men.

(According to Gao Phong Press Agency)

* In the Chong Thien Province (about 185 km southwest of Saigon).

VIET NAM COURIER